

CMPT 376W Reading Google Unionizing

By: Michael Chang Date: January 29, 2021

Why did the employees form a union?

- The employees form a union to ensure employees work at a fair wage, and without fear of abuse, retaliation, discrimination.

How long were they trying to form a union?

- The union is officially launched on January 4, 2021
- In 2019, it all started with a group of contractors start to form a union in Pittsburgh, and the union is officially launched this year's January 4. Therefore, they have been trying to form a union for over a year.

What did the employees gain from forming a union?

- Since these employees form a union, they are able to echo their voice and opinion for improving their right as an employee. In 2019, they wrote a public letter to Alphabet to cut the company's greenhouse gas emission by 2030. Also, the union signed petition to criticize a cloud computing contract between Google and US Customs and Border Protection for separating immigrant families at the border.

Did Google oppose or support the union? why?

- Google is either oppose or support the union. However, the negotiation between the company and the union is in progress. Based on the statement from Google's director of human resources, Kara Silverstein, "[the company had] always worked hard to create a supportive and rewarding workplace [for its employees].... Of course our employees have protected labor rights that we support, ... But as we've always done, we'll continue engaging directly with all our employees."